



Representative
Renee Radcliff



**21st District
1998 Session Preview**

Dear Friends:

It's time for another legislative session in Olympia and I'd like to share with all of you in the 21st District some of the issues I'll be working on in the coming months. **Transportation, education and crime deterrence are at the top of my agenda** as I work to serve you in the state Legislature.

The **transportation needs of the 21st District** are an ongoing concern. With a train track that carries both freight and passengers running through the district, two ferry terminals, a general purpose airport on our north border, and a quickly growing population, it is clear why transportation is of such vital interest and importance to our communities. Traffic is bad and getting worse.

Our state's economy is both trade- and transportation-dependent, and **we must find a way to keep our transportation system running smoothly**. I have spent many months working on solutions for funding our transportation needs -- solutions that will not put additional tax burdens on our state's citizens -- and I believe this will be the major focus of the 1998 legislative session.

Another issue of great concern to families in the 21st District is **crime**, and more specifically, juvenile justice. Recent tragic events have shown us there must be more monitoring and stricter enforcement of group homes for violent juvenile offenders. Looking for ways to avoid the tragedy of drunk driving is another priority for the coming session.

Education is of ongoing interest to our families. The results of a statewide fourth-grade test show that we need to improve academic standards. The Legislature will consider K-12 reform measures aimed at helping our schools do a better job of teaching students. We will also work on financial aid issues for higher education, as well as enhancing standards in community and technical colleges.

Finally, I will continue to work to make government more accountable and responsive to the people of Washington state. In recent years, the Legislature has accomplished a lot, but there's still much to do. My door is always open to you and I welcome your thoughts, suggestions and questions. I'm looking forward to serving you in the coming year, and I hope you will keep in touch with me throughout the session and beyond. It is an honor to be your representative in Olympia.

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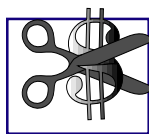
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Committees:

Higher Education, *vice chair*
Criminal Justice and Corrections
Transportation Policy and Budget
Legislative Transportation Committee

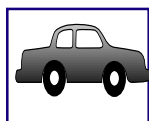
Legislative Hotline: 1-800-562-6000



THE BUDGET: CUTTING SPENDING AND SAVING TAXPAYER DOLLARS

By the end of 1999, Washington state will have a surplus of more than \$850 million. Because of the Legislature's responsible spending, we now have money to put into a "rainy day" reserve, which will help us in case of future economic downturns.

This year, we will continue to spend taxpayer dollars responsibly, and to reduce the tax burden on you and your family.



TRANSPORTATION: WHAT CAN WE DO ABOUT THE TRAFFIC?

Those of you who drive know how frustrating it is to be stuck in traffic. For commuters, it means having to spend extra time on the road instead of at home or work. For business owners who rely on roads to transport their goods and services, it means lost opportunities and added costs.

So, what can be done to make the situation better?

Funding: The Legislature will fund road construction and maintenance, and other crucial projects. Instead of raising the gas tax, we are looking for other ways to pay



THE ENVIRONMENT: A PROGRESS REPORT

Over the past three years, the House has passed landmark environmental legislation. One of our main goals in environmental policy is making sure the laws that are passed, and the dollars that are spent, bring results for the environment. Not just talk, but action.

Keeping Puget Sound clean

We have taken a new approach to Puget Sound protection that focuses on ACCOUNTABILITY and RESULTS. Instead of sitting around and planning, we created a Puget Sound Action Team -- it is responsible for taking positive steps to keep the sound clean. The team is getting rave reviews from local officials.

Our Puget Sound strategy is just one example of the new approach the Legislature is taking on environmental protection. We have also passed laws to protect water quality, to enhance fish populations, to prevent oil spills, and to improve hazardous waste cleanup.

for our state's transportation needs. One option is using more of the Motor Vehicle Excise Tax (MVET), most of which now goes into the state's General Fund, specifically for transportation.

As you know, if the issue of a gas tax increase had come to a vote during the 1998 session, I most likely would have supported it. Our transportation system is stretched to the limit -- it needs serious, long-term improvements so that it can support our growing population and economy. Those improvements will cost a considerable amount of money -- about \$2.5 billion. As large and as daunting as that price tag may be, I'm afraid that if we don't tackle the issue now, we may have a real crisis on our hands soon.

One of my highest priorities in the 1998 session is working for a transportation funding package that will maintain our region's economic productivity, as well as the quality of life you and your family enjoy.

Transit update: In November 1996, voters approved a wide-ranging transit plan for the Puget Sound Region. The Regional Transit Authority has begun a 10-year project on "Sound Transit," which will improve your ability to travel within the 21st District, and to other areas.



CRIME: MAKING OUR STREETS SAFER

Nothing is more important than the safety of our families and communities. We have been working hard to make the streets safer for citizens, and make life tougher for criminals.

In the last session we passed a series of anti-crime bills, including some important juvenile justice reforms, which I was proud to support. In the coming session we'll continue to seek reforms to the criminal justice system, and to try to help prevent crime before it starts.

Recent tragic events have highlighted the need for changes in juvenile group homes. Several months ago a young girl in Stanwood was raped and beaten to death by a young man who walked away from the juvenile offender group home in which he was living. Clearly, we need to heighten security at these homes, and make sure violent criminals are not allowed to be in situations where they can simply walk away from supervision.

We will pass legislation aimed at group homes and other non-secure facilities, requiring better managing, monitoring and controlling of offenders.

1998 Session Preview

Stopping crime before it starts

I strongly support measures that will crack down on criminals, but I also believe it is important to prevent young people from embarking on a life of crime in the first place. I have introduced a bipartisan bill, the Juvenile Violence Deterrence Act, that will give funding to programs that identify and target at-risk youth and their families.

My bill would, if enacted, focus on early intervention for at-risk juveniles. It would provide grant funds to community-based programs that are proven to be effective.

Sadly, many of the kids who enter the juvenile justice system come from broken or troubled homes. I believe my bill would give much-needed help to these kids, and steer them away from a destructive life of crime.

Putting the brakes on drunk driving

Driving can be dangerous enough, but the combination of alcohol and autos is often deadly. During the holiday season I spent two full nights riding with troopers of the Washington State Patrol. It was an incredible learning experience for me about how they manage highway safety—including the apprehension of impaired drivers. I believe the following proposals, if enacted, will greatly enhance their ability to deal with this growing problem:

- Lowering the legal blood alcohol content from .10 to .08
- Impounding the cars of drunk drivers
- Requiring convicted drunk drivers to have a breathalyzer installed in their car -- if they've been drinking, the car won't start
- Longer jail terms
- Putting second and subsequent DUI offenses on a person's permanent record



EDUCATION

Did you know that in a recent statewide test of fourth-graders, only 48 percent of the children met the reading standards?

That's not all -- only 42 percent of fourth-graders met writing standards, and only 22 percent met mathematical standards.

These results were certainly a wake-up call. We must make sure our children learn the basic skills they need to succeed later on in life.

Here's what the Legislature is doing to give your children a better education:

Adequate funding: We have increased school funding for 1997-99 by 7.5 percent. We have also fully funded school construction projects.

Safe schools: Last year the Legislature passed a law that allows teachers and school administrators to remove disruptive and violent students who threaten other students' safety and ability to learn. I am proud to have sponsored a measure which provides options to parents and schools for alternative schooling for students who must be removed from the classroom.

Accountability: Positive results are the real proof of academic excellence. Teachers must be responsible for teaching kids basic academic skills, and students must be responsible for learning them. The Legislature will work to improve academic standards, to make diplomas more meaningful, and to give local communities more control over their schools.



Rep. Radcliff's work on technology issues has earned her the 'Legislator of the Year' award from the American Electronics Association.



JOIN US FOR A TOWN HALL MEETING!

On Saturday, Feb. 7, Rep. Radcliff will hold two town hall meetings. You're invited to come and hear how this year's Legislature will affect the 21st District, as well as to give your views about the issues that are important to you.

Here is the schedule:

Saturday, Feb. 7

- 9 a.m. - 11 a.m.:** Lynnwood City Council Chambers
19100 44th Ave. West
- 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.:** Mukilteo Fire Station #3 - Training room
10400 47th Place West

Sen. Jeanette Wood will also attend

For more information please call:

(360) 786-7972 – Rep. Radcliff

We look forward to seeing you!
